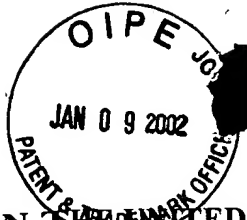


PATENT



Docket No. 1232-4563

#107B  
LB  
1-16-02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant** : Yasuo Okutani and Masayuki Yamada  
**Serial No.** : 09/386,052 **Group Art Unit:** 2641  
**Filed** : August 30, 1999 **Examiner:** Angela A. Armstrong  
**For** : SPEECH SYNTHESIZING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND  
STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION  
(RESUBMISSION)**

**RECEIVED**

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

JAN 16 2002

Technology Center 2600

S I R:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 27, 2001. Please  
amend this application as follows:

**In The Claims**

Please cancel claims 7 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 19, 20, 23 and 24 as follows. (Amendments to the  
claims are should in the Appendix attached hereto.)

1.(amended) A speech synthesizing apparatus comprising:  
storage means for storing plural items of phoneme data;  
retrieval means for retrieving phoneme data, in accordance with given retrieval  
conditions, from the plural items of phoneme data stored in said storage means;  
first penalty assigning means for assigning a penalty that is based upon an  
attribute value to each item of phoneme data retrieved by said retrieval means; and

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